

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 02276 102158Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 COME-00 STR-04 ITC-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /048 W

----- 086152

R 102048Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4662

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS TORONTO 2276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: FARMERS URGE NATIONAL CHICKEN MARKETING AGENCY

1. THE INSIGHT PAGE OF THE DECEMBER 10 TORONTO STAR WAS DEVOTED TO TWO ARTICLES ON THE ASPIRATIONS OF CANADAIN CHICKEN FARMERS WHO URGE THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL CHICKEN MARKETING AGENCY TO PROTECT THEM FROM US COMPETITION. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT IMPORTS FROM THE US HAVE RISEN FROM 9 MILLION POUNDS IN 1974 TO 20 MILLION POUNDS IN 1975 AND WILL BE IN EXCESS OF 50 MILLION POUNDS BY THE END OF 1976. OF THE 50 MILLION POUNDS, 43 MILLION CAME ALREADY PROCESSED.

2. THE CANADAIN FARMERS STATE THAT BECAUSE CHICKEN CAN BE PRODUCED 25 PERCENT CHEAPER IN THE UNITED STATES AND THERE ARE NO IMPORT LIMITATIONS, THE 12 1/2 PERCENT IMPORT TARIFF IS NOT MUCH OF A CONTROL. THE FARMERS ALLEGE THAT THE US INDUSTRY CAN PRODUCE 25 PERCENT CHEAPER BECAUSE OF LOWER LABOR COSTS AND LOWER BUILDING AND HEATING COSTS IN CLIMATES NOT

AS COLD AS CANADA'S.

3. CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED IN THE STAR ARTICLE AS ALLEGING THAT CONTINUED UNCONTROLLED IMPORTS WOULD PUT CANADIAN PRODUCERS OUT OF BUSINESS. "IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE THEN WE HAVE TO GIVE THEM THE MEANS TO COMPETE. AND IT ISN'T JUST A QUESTION OF PROTECTING OUR CHICKEN PRODUCERS. IT IS A QUESTION OF PROTECTING JOBS FOR PEOPLE IN ALL CANADAIN INDUSTRIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGRICULTURE, POULTRY, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, TRADE CONTROLS, TARIFFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TORONT02276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-0138
From: TORONTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761252/aaaabssb.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARMERS URGE NATIONAL CHICKEN MARKETING AGENCY
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SOPN, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006